



Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

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Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 2, 2007
5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers
735 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor, Santa Barbara

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Forsell called the regular meeting of the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force to order at 5:32 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Task Force Member Forsell

ROLL CALL: Task Force Members Present:

Steve Forsell	City Park & Recreation Commissioner
Beebe Longstreet	City Park & Recreation Commissioner
Suzanne Perkins	County Parks Commissioner 1 st District
Bruce Emmens	Public Use & Facilities Staff Officer Los Padres National Forest

Task Force Members Not Present:

James Hickling	County Parks Commissioner 3 rd District
Linda Riddle	District Ranger, Santa Barbara Ranger District Los Padres National Forest

City of Santa Barbara Staff Present

Jill Zachary	Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
Kathy Frye	Associate Park/Natural Areas Planner
Karla Megill	Executive Assistant
Santos Escobar	Parks Manager

County of Santa Barbara Staff Present

Claude A. Garciacelay	ASLA, Park Planner
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Los Padres National Forest Staff Present

Kerry Kellogg	Recreation Specialist, Santa Barbara Ranger District
Jeff Bensen	District Recreation Officer, Los Padres National Forest

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Speakers:

- Members of the Public: Peter Linfoot, Matthew Benko, Jeff Harbison, Stephen Dougherty, Kat Post, Sam Shaefer

TASK FORCE AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Zachary called the Task Force's attention to the correspondence distributed to them by staff. She indicated the documents were received from members of the public.

1. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: That the FCT Multi-jurisdictional Task Force waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the March 7, 2007.

Chair Forsell made the correction that the minutes to be approved are actually the minutes of the April 4, 2007, regular meeting. He asked whether the Task Force could approve the minutes in light of the clerical error. Ms. Zachary indicated that the Task Force could approve the minutes of the April 4, 2007, meeting.

Action: Approved the recommendation, as amended.

Motion:

Task Force members Longstreet/Perkins that the Task Force approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 4, 2007.

Vote:

3/0 Forsell abstained

OLD BUSINESS

2. Budget Information for the Los Padres National Forest

Documents:

- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Mr. Bruce Emmons, Los Padres National Forest representative to Task Force

Task Force Comments/Discussion:

- Task Force Forsell expressed concern about the drop in funding.
 - Mr. Emmons said the 65% decrease in trails funding was in construction dollars. He commented that Congress is shifting monies, and the agency does not have much discretion.
- Task Force Member Longstreet expressed the desire for staff and the Task Force to advocate for the need to spend more money for natural resources.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Existing Conditions – User Education

RECOMMENDATION: That the FCT Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force (Task Force):

- A. Receive a presentation on trail user education including trail signage, informational materials, bike bells and trail hosts; and
- B. Recommend that FCT Task Force staff work with trail user groups to develop informational signage for installation at the trailheads of five front country trails.

Documents:

- Staff Report
 - Trail Sign Examples
 - Proposed Trail Signs and Hardware
 - SBMTV Etiquette Card and Flier
 - Bike Bell and Trail Host Program Photos
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director; Kathy Frye, Associate Planner, City of Santa Barbara; Kerry Kellogg, Recreation Specialist, Santa Barbara Ranger District
- Members of the Public: Jim Childress, Santa Barbara Sierra Club Executive Committee

Task Force Comments/Discussion:

- Task Force comments primarily concerned the need for an archaeological report prior to sign installation; the cost and posting trail signs before knowing before the hearings are completed and there is a determination from the City Council and Board of Supervisors; the need to educate people regarding trail use and safety; and the need for there to be a consensus regarding the content of the signs. There was also some discussion regarding who would install the signs if approval was given to

do so, and whether the installation would be done at no net cost to the City, County, or Forest Service.

- Mr. Kellogg said that in the National Forest, the Archaeologist, approved the location, but the mitigation was to use a T-Post. He said that the bulletin boards did have an archaeological review.
 - Mr. Kellogg said the Trails Alliance purchased a majority of the signs, and they are ready to be put up. He stated there are blank signs already installed on the tops, and pre-made signs ready to be installed on the bottoms of the trails.
 - Mr. Kellogg said that it's likely the Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers and Los Padres Forest Association would volunteer. He said he believes they could be installed at no net cost to the City, County, or Forest Service.
- The Task Force asked for clarification on the staff recommendation.
- Ms. Zachary said staff is asking the Task Force to concur with the staff recommendation to do more work and come back with what information might actually be on the sign, and by that time, staff would have identified a funding source, and at that time, the Task Force could take further action.

Action: Approved the recommendation.

Motion:

Task Force members Perkins/Longstreet that the Task Force have staff move ahead on considering the signage taking into consideration the Task Force's comments.

Vote:

Unanimous Roll Call Vote

4. User Group Presentations – For Information

A. Santa Barbara Trails Council

Speakers:

- Vivian Obern, Executive Secretary, SB County Trails Council; Martin O'Hara; and Dan Gira

Task Force Comments:

- Task Force Member Emmons ask how many members the Santa Barbara Country Trails Council has. Mr. Gira said the Santa Barbara Country Trails Council has a membership of 650, with about 125 active members.

B. Multi-Use Trails Coalition

Documents:

- PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Cort Flinchbaugh

C. Montecito Trails Foundation

Speakers:

- John Venable, President, Montecito Trails Foundation

Public Comment Speakers:

- Chris Orr, Lynn Kirst, Ray Ford, Los Padres Forest Association;
Jed Hursch, Board Member SB Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers.

Task Force Comments:

- The Task Force was concerned about whether there was any procedure for preventing people from hiking on trails when it is muddy.
 - Ms. Zachary said there is nothing that closes the trail right now; and referred to the staff report which includes copies of photos of signage that discourages use of the trails during wet or muddy conditions.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

At 7:50 p.m., Task Force members Perkins/Longstreet that the Task Force meeting be adjourned.

Vote:

Unanimous roll call vote

Respectfully submitted,

Jill E. Zachary
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director